

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJ: PROCEDURES FOR PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM

REF: STATE 050648

1. EMBASSY COMMENTS ON PROPOSED IV PROCEDURES FOLLOW.

2. RE PARA 3, WE RECOMMEND LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE AT
HIGHEST LEVEL BE HANDLED IN DIFFERENT FORUMS AND NOT
BE INCLUDED IN THEIR PROGRAM (SEPTEL FOLLOWS). WHILE
U.S. MAY USE IV FUNDS AND PROCEDURES FOR SUCH VISITORS
FOR PURELY ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS, IN SOVIET EYES SUCH
EXCHANGES SHOULD BE ENTIRELY SEPARATE.

3. CONCUR WITH PARA 6 (A), EXCEPT THAT INVITATION,
AFTER FIRST STEP, SHOULD GO DIRECT TO INVITEE WITH
COPY TO MFA CULTURAL DIVISION (E.G., KHOKLOV, YELUTIN).
LETTER OF INVITATION SHOULD BE FROM AMBASSADOR EXCEPT IN
CASES WHERE APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL IN U.S. EXTENDS
INVITATION.

4. CONCUR WITH PARA 6 (B), BUT RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT ALSO
ACCEPT SMALL DELEGATIONS OF UP TO FOUR OR EVEN FIVE IN
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CASES WHERE IT IS IN U.S. INTEREST TO TAP NEW GROUP WHICH

HAS NOT PARTICIPATED IN EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

5. CONCUR PARAS 6 (C) AND 7.

6. RE PARA 8, WE NOTE THAT PRECEDENCE FOR U.S. INVITING DISTINGUISHED SOVIETS OUTSIDE THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT QUOTA HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, AS IN MINISTER YELUTIN AND RECTOR KHOKLOV CASES. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MGU AND MINISTRY ON LATTER INVITATION IS A DELICATE ONE, AND IT WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO FUTURE CASES IF VISIT ARRANGEMENTS GO SMOOTHLY. THEREFORE, WE HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO KEEP MHE AND MFA INFORMED WHILE GOING AHEAD WITH U.S. INITIATIVE. INDIVIDUAL AND SMALL GROUP INVITATIONS UNDER IV PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE FURTHER TEST WITH GOOD CHANCE FOR SUCCESS.

7. RE PARA 10, WE DO NOT BELIEVE SOVIETS WILL VIEW PROGRAM AS INTERFERENCE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS IF CONTACTS HANDLED CAREFULLY. AT DECEMBER EXCHANGE TALKS SOVIETS ACCEPTED CONCEPT OF PROGRAM IN PRINCIPLE WITH PROVISIO THAT IT ALREADY WAS PROVIDED FOR UNDER EXISTING AGREEMENT. THEIR ATTITUDE AT THAT TIME MAY INDICATE THAT THEY ARE READY FOR CAUTIOUS EXPANSION OF CONTACTS AT THIS LEVEL BUT WISH TO KEEP MECHANISM UNDER ESTABLISHED, RATHER RIGID EXCHANGE AGREEMENT PROCEDURES. THIS MAY MEAN THAT THEY WILL TURN DOWN OUR PROPOSAL FOR RECEIVING SIDE PAYING ALL EXPENSES SINCE THIS SOMEWHAT LESSENS THEIR CONTROL.

8. IN ANY CASE, NEXT STEP SHOULD BE PROPOSAL OF NAMES AND SMALL-GROUP CATEGORIES TO MFA CULTURAL DIVISION. EMBASSY SUBMITTING RECOMMENDED INITIAL LIST BY SEPTTEL.
STOESSEL

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